

imagine all the people

"imagine all the people" is a series produced by the Boston Redevelopment Authority's Research Division for the Office of New Bostonians that highlights Immigrant communities and their contributions to Boston's social, cultural and economic life.



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October 2005

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Large-scale migration from Brazil is a relatively recent phenomenon. Indeed, Brazil has historically been a host country for Immigrants from many nations. From the early 19th century to the mid 20th century, German, Swiss, Italians, Spaniards, Poles, Czechs, Russians, Japanese and others joined the Portuguese in searching for new opportunities in Brazil.

After the military coup of 1964, thousands of Brazilians went into exile. Although most of these exiles returned to Brazil after the amnesty of 1979, the number of economic emigrants grew in the 1980's. According to a Brazilian demographer, José Alberto Magno de Carvalho, Director of the Center of Development and Regional Planning at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, there were approximately one to 2.5 million Brazilians living outside Brazil by 1995.¹



Brazilian immigrants in Boston



The United States (42%), Paraguay (23%) and Japan (12%), are the main destinations for Brazilian Immigrants.² In 2000 the U.S. Census counted 212,636 Brazilians living in the United States representing 0.7 percent of the country's Foreign-born population³ of 31 million.⁴ During the early years, Immigrants from Minas Gerais dominated the immigration flow to the U.S. Now, Goiás, Paraná and Santa Catarina have also become major Immigrant exporting regions. Today, at least sixteen Brazilian states contribute to the migration stream.

population

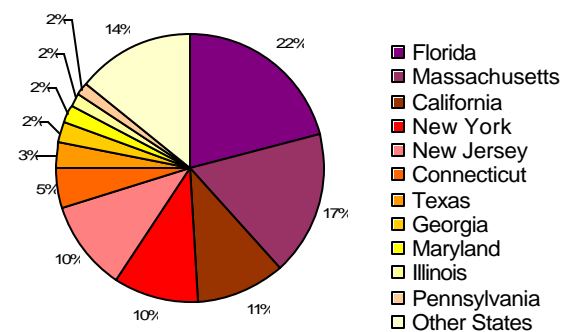
The majority of Brazilian Immigrants to the United States live in metropolitan regions. Massachusetts (17%) ranks second to Florida (22%). Other large concentrations of Brazilians include California (11%), New York (10%) and New Jersey (10%). Combined, these five states constitute 70 percent of the total Foreign-born population from Brazil in the United States.

Recently, Massachusetts became the primary U.S. destination for Brazilian Immigrants (27%) followed by Florida (15%), California (10%) and New York (4%), explaining the fact that Brazilians are now the fastest growing Immigrant community in Massachusetts.⁵

Nearly 7,173 Brazilians live in Boston.⁶ They are mostly male (53%), single (45%), and 50 percent of them are between the ages of 20 and 34 - a greater proportion of young adults than that in the general population (33%). Fifteen percent of them are U.S. citizens by naturalization.

population share

Share of Brazilian Population by State



Source: U.S. Census 2000, BRA Research Division Analysis

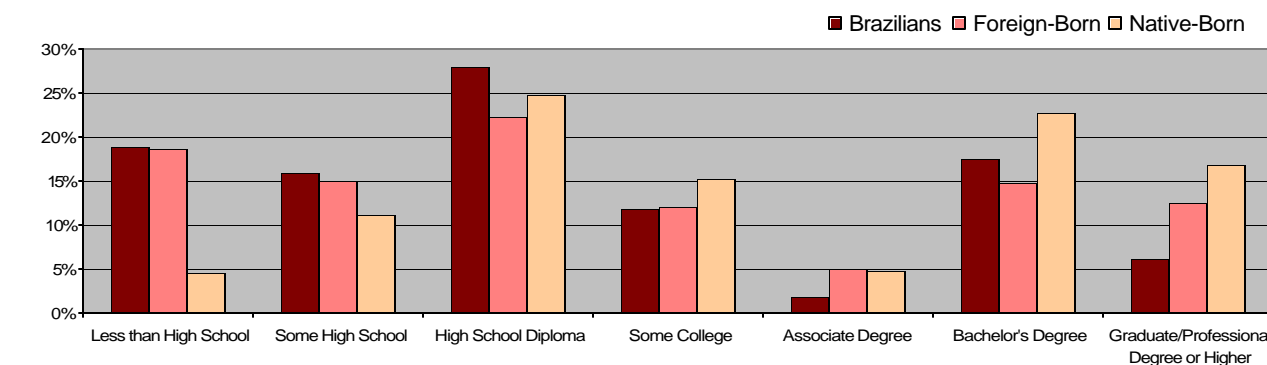


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Brazilians are **more likely** to hold a **high school diploma** than both other immigrants and the Native-born population.

Although many Brazilians lack a high school education,⁷ they are more likely to hold a high school diploma (28%) than the Native-born (25%) and the Foreign-born (22%). Eighteen percent of them have a bachelor's degree compared with 23 percent and 15 percent for Native and Foreign-born, respectively. And, 6 percent have a master's degree or higher, a much lower proportion than that of the Native-born (17%) and the Foreign-born population (13%).

educational attainment

Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Older



Source: U.S. Census 2000, Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample, BRA Research Division Analysis

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One in two Brazilians in Boston are between the **ages of 20 and 34.**

Most Brazilians living in Boston are employed in the following occupations: services (42%), technical, sales and administrative support (19%), construction, extraction and transportation (13%), managerial and professional (14%) and production (6%).

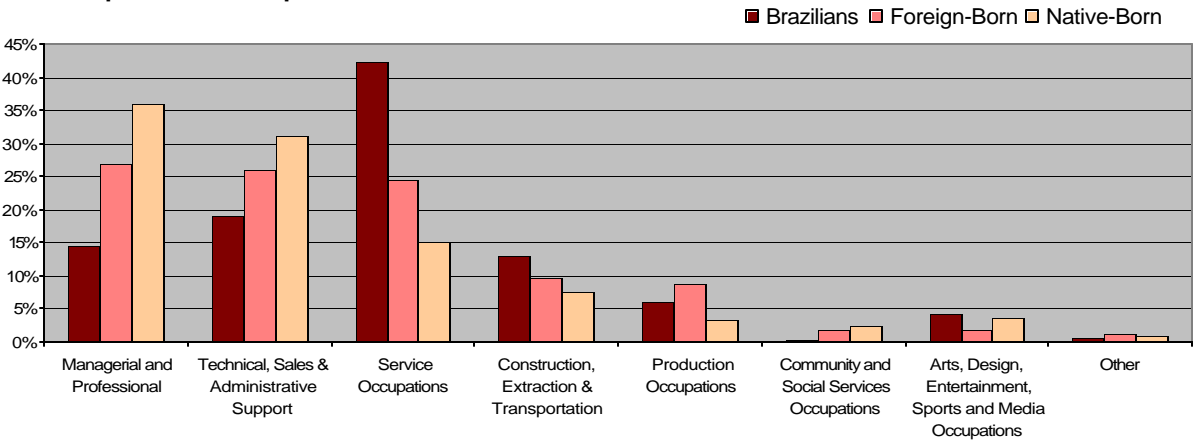
Brazilians are over represented in service occupations when compared with the Native (15%) and Foreign-born (24%) populations. They are also over represented in construction occupations relative to the Native-born population (8% and 3% respectively). Brazilians are also over represented in the arts, design, entertainment, sports and media occupations (4%) relative to both the Native (3.6%) and the Foreign-born (2%). Brazilians are under represented in all other occupations. They are least represented in managerial and technical occupations.

A little over two-thirds are employed. The labor force participation rate⁸ of Brazilians is 77 percent, compared with 64 percent for the rest of the population. The unemployment rate among Brazilians is 3.4 percent compared to 7.2 percent citywide.

occupations

This high rate of labor force participation and low unemployment rate is not uncommon among Immigrants and is, in general, explained by the economic nature of their reasons for immigrating. The majority of them (61%) work for a private for profit company. Another 5 percent work for a private not for profit organization.

Occupations for Population 25 Years and Older



Source: U.S. Census 2000, Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample, BRA Research Division Analysis

employment

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The **labor force** participation rate of **Brazilians** is **77%** compared with **64%** for the rest of Boston's population.

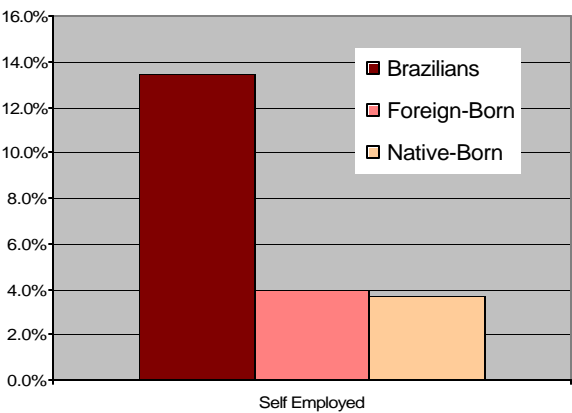


More than thirteen percent are self-employed; a rate more than three times that of the Foreign-born population and almost four times the self-employment rate of the Native population.

self-employed

Such a high self-employment rate may be explained by high rates of financial capital among Brazilians as well as the fact that they emigrated from a country that also has a high self-employment rate.⁹

Share of Self Employed Workers



Source: U.S. Census 2000, Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample, BRA Research Division Analysis

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More than **13%** of **Brazilians** are **self employed** - a rate **three times** that of other immigrants and **four times** that of the **Native-born** population.

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Brazilians bought 3 out of 10 homes sold to immigrants in Massachusetts.

Brazilian Immigrants make significant economic contributions locally. In addition to contributions made through their work, they add value through spending on goods and services. For example, for every 10 homes sold to immigrants in Massachusetts three are purchased by Brazilians making them the largest home buying group, second only to the Chinese.¹⁰

The total value of their contributions is estimated using a regional economic model (REMI) that calculates the value of goods and services consumed on each dollar spent.

spending

Brazilians spend, from their after tax earnings, nearly \$132 million in Boston, annually¹¹ These annual expenditures generate a regional product of \$124 million in local expending and \$36 million in State and Federal taxes.¹² This expenditure in turn, generates 1,104 indirect jobs in the local economy.¹³

Brazilians further contribute to Boston's economy through entrepreneurship. As we know, Brazilians have a very high self-employment rate. They own more than 150 small businesses in the greater Boston area, specializing in restaurants, grocery, travel and insurance among other industry sectors.

entrepreneurship

Combined, these businesses represent more than \$40 million in annual sales, employ more than 400 people¹⁴ and contribute \$24 million to the regional product, \$2 million in State and Federal taxes¹⁵ and 253 indirect jobs.

However, while 46 percent of Boston's Native-born population and 28 percent of all adult Foreign-born had achieved at least a middle-class standard of living,¹⁶ only 21 percent of Brazilians have a similar status.

Collectively, Brazilians contribute \$148 million to the economy, pay \$38 million in taxes, and create 1,357 indirect jobs.

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A combination of many factors may explain this low representation. In part, it may reflect the effect of low educational levels and English language proficiency. For example, while 37.9% of Boston's adult Foreign-born population either lacks a high school diploma or has limited English-speaking skills, an already high proportion, these limitations reach 57.8% of the adult Brazilian population living in Boston. In part this is likely to reflect the low levels of recognition of foreign qualifications.

standard of living

As the table illustrates, Brazilians have a much lower return on education than both the Foreign-born and the Native-born population among those with a master's degree or higher. This is particularly true for those in professional occupations where official recognition and/or recertification are needed. Finally, an important barrier facing Immigrants, in general, and Brazilians in particular, is the lack of general knowledge about how local labor markets work.

Educational Attainment for 20-64 Year Olds in Boston with Middle-Class Standard of Living

Educational Attainment	Native-Born	Foreign-Born	Brazilians
1-12 years, no diploma or GED	16%	15%	8%
High school diploma or GED	31%	22%	16%
13-15 years, no college degree	38%	24%	30%
Associate's degree	45%	31%	50%
Bachelor's degree	59%	43%	47%
Masters or higher	75%	56%	29%
All	46%	28%	21%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, Public Use Microdata (PUM) 5% Sample, BRA Research Division Analysis

contributions

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7,173 Brazilians in Boston

More than 212,636
Brazilians live in the U.S.

Main destinations for
Brazilian immigrants:

- ▶ U.S. - 42%
- ▶ Paraguay - 23%
- ▶ Japan - 12%

Major Brazilian
emigrant regions:

- ▶ Minas Gerais
- ▶ Goias
- ▶ Parana
- ▶ Santa Catarina

homebuying

Brazilians bought
3 out of the 10 home
sold to immigrants in MA

contributing

\$132 million
annual spending

\$148 million
to the regional product

\$38 million in
state & federal taxes

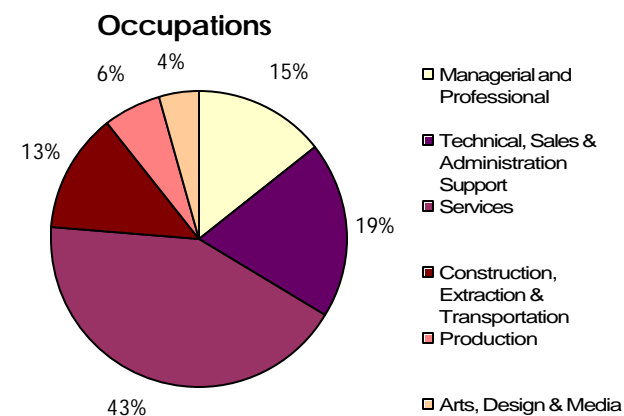
1,357 indirect jobs
for the local economy

entrepreneurship

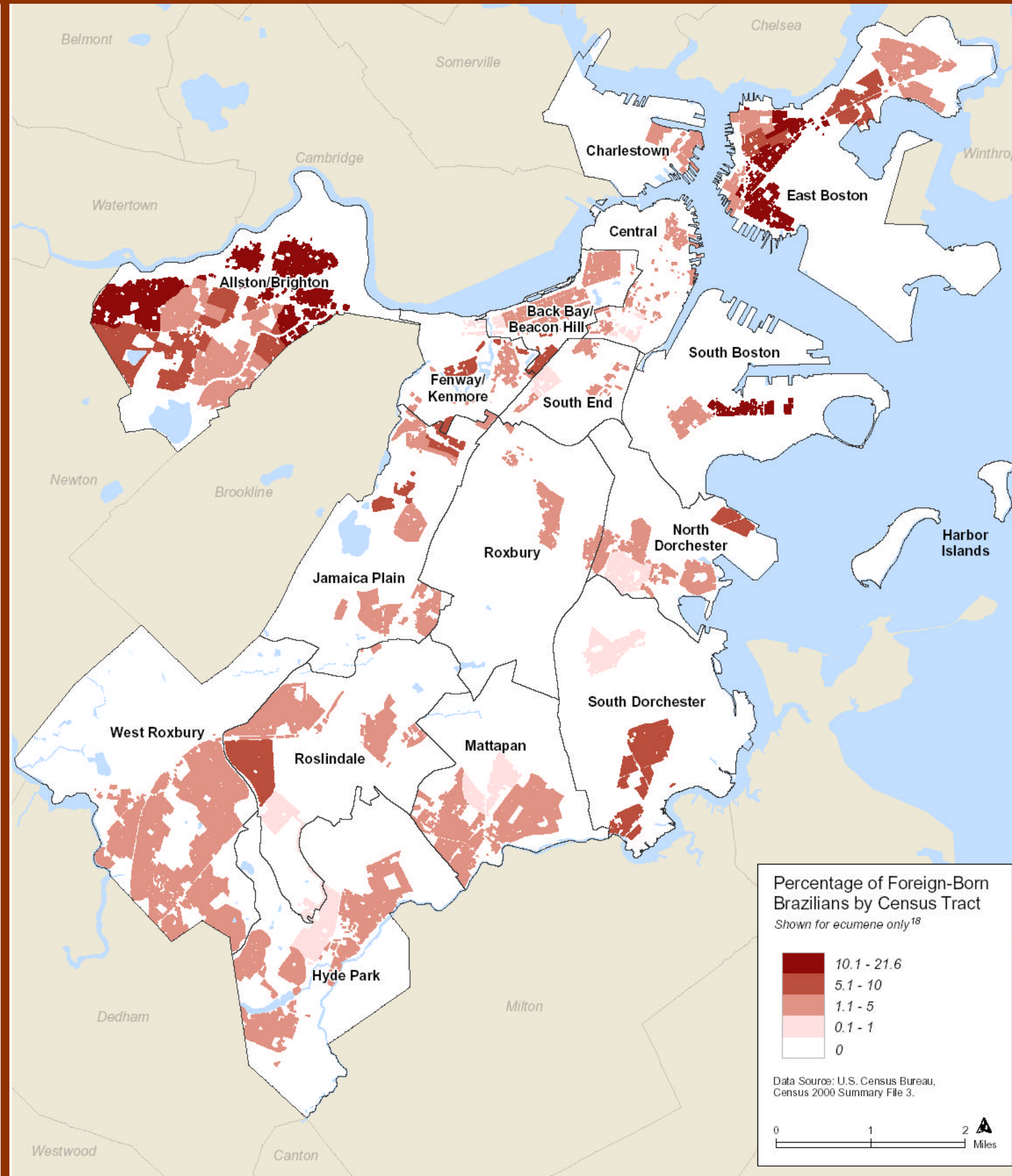
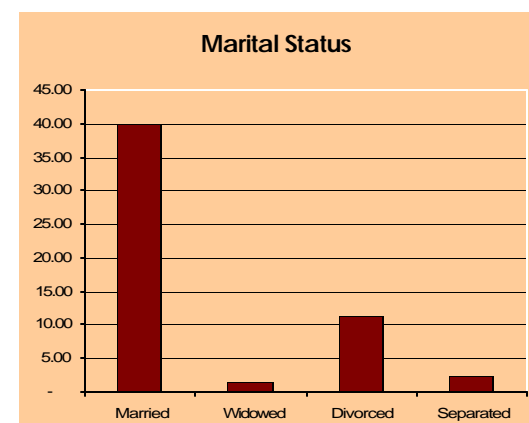
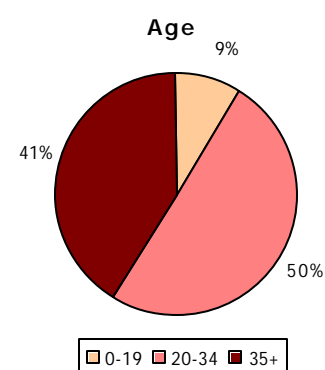
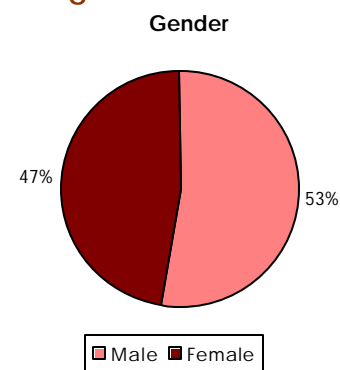
Annual Sales
\$40 million

Business Ownership
150 small businesses

working



living



end notes

[1] Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute (IBGE) (2000). The Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute registered the statistical "absence" of 1,379,928 Brazilians between the ages of 20 and 44 from the 1991 Brazilian Census, a fact that can only be explained by emigration.

[2] Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute. (2000).

[3] The "Foreign-born" population includes all people who are born outside the U.S. It includes persons born abroad by American parents, naturalized citizens, and non-U.S. citizens. The "Native-born" population includes all people born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Island Areas. Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Research Division. (2005).

[4] Brazilian population estimates vary widely. For example, the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimated that in 2001 there were between 800,000 and 1.1 million Brazilians living in the United States. Cited in Margolis, Maxine L. (2005). Involving the Brazilian Diaspora in Brazilian Studies: Brazilian Immigration to the United States. Department of Anthropology, University of Florida.

[5] 36,669 Brazilians resided in Massachusetts in 2000 accounting for 4.7 percent of the State's total Immigrant population. U.S. Census Bureau (2000). This share is increasing rapidly and fuelled by the recent inflow of Brazilian Immigrants. Between 2000 and 2003, Brazilians made up 19.1 percent of all new Immigrants coming to Massachusetts. Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth. (2005). The Changing Face of Massachusetts. Boston: Author.

[6] According to MassInc between 2000 and 2003 Brazilians made up 19.1 percent of all new immigrants to Massachusetts. Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth. (2005). The Changing Face of Massachusetts. Boston: Author. This represents a 60% increase in the Brazilian population living in Massachusetts. If we apply the same ratio to Boston's Brazilian-born population we have a total Brazilian population in Boston of 7,173.

[7] The proportion of Brazilians with less than a high school education (19%), is equal to that of the Foreign-born population and much greater than the Native-born (5%). U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

[8] Defined as the share of the working-age population that is either currently employed or seeking work. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2005).

[9] There is no agreement among researchers regarding the reasons for variations in the self-employment rates among different Immigrant groups. Reasons cited include human and financial capital of individual Immigrants, high rates of solidarity and social capital in some Immigrant communities, as well as the opportunity structure encountered by Immigrant entrepreneurs.

[10] Moraes, C. (2005). Brazilians Bought 3 out of 10 Homes Sold to Immigrants in Massachusetts. Metropolitan Brazilian News, Edition 242, Year V, 09/30/05 to 10/06/05. Boston: Author.

[11] Total gross income of Brazilians totaled \$177 million in 2004. Adjustments were made for remittances assuming a monthly transfer of \$342 per household. This amount is in accordance with estimates made by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Marcuss, M. (2005). International Remittances: Information for New England Financial Institutions. Boston. Author. Remittances are another way Brazilians have an economic impact, and in this case, on the Brazilian economy. In 2004, Boston's Brazilians sent back to Brazil \$10.9 million in remittances. Worldwide, in 1995, Brazil received a total of \$2.9 billion in remittances. International Monetary Fund. (2000). Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook. Washington, D.C. Author.

[12] Brazilians generate \$7.4 million in State income taxes, \$2.1 million in State sales taxes paid, and \$26.6 million in Federal income taxes. Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Research Division. (2005). Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI) calculations.

[13] BRA Research Division. (2005). REMI calculations.

[14] Lima, A. (1997) Brazilian Businesses in Greater Boston. Boston: Consulate General of Brazil (Boston).

[15] Brazilian-owned businesses generate \$0.426 million in State income taxes, \$0.025 million in State sales taxes paid, and \$1.5 million in Federal income taxes. Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) Research Division. (2005). Regional Economic Model, Inc. (REMI) calculations.

[16] A family income four times the poverty line is used as a proxy for the middle-class standard of living. The actual income needed to achieve this standard depends on the number of people in the family. For a two-person family the income would be at least \$44,856 which is at the 43rd percentile of all families. Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth. (2005). The Changing Face of Massachusetts. Boston: Author.

[17] Galvão, H. M. (2002). The Brazilian Community of New England: An Economic Profile. Boston: Author

[18] Ecumene: Inhabited Space, from the Greek root oixos meaning inhabited and nenon meaning space.

Census demographic mapping at Boston's Planning and Economic Development agency works at the tract and block group levels. To insure the city's land uses and population distribution are adequately reflected in the maps we make, allowances are made for water bodies, parks, and industrial zones, etc.

The population ecumene is created from the City of Boston Assessing Department parcel boundaries. Land use records from three sources (Assessing Department, Boston Redevelopment Authority, and City of Boston Parks Department) are analyzed to determine which parcels should be included. In some cases parcels are modified to better reflect reality. No new land analysis from aerial photographs or remote sensing data is done. The ecumene intersects both census and block group boundaries resulting in data sets to which census data can be mapped. New area values for the block groups and census tracts are calculated based on the ecumene. Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA). (2005). Planning Division.

BRAZILIANS